

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1 1. (Currently Amended) A method of distributing workload in a workflow management
2 system comprising the steps of:

3 [[a]] during a calibration mode, executing plural instantiations of a test process to
4 identify load index parameters;

5 calculating a load index based on the load index parameters for each engine of the
6 workflow management system, wherein each load index reflects a workload of its associated
7 engine, wherein the load index corresponds to an average activity execution delay; and

8 [[b]] distributing workload across the plurality of engines in response to the load
9 indices in a load sensitive mode.

1 2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 ~~further comprising the steps of:~~

2 e) ~~executing a test process to identify~~ wherein identifying the load index parameters
3 including comprises identifying a single engine nominal activity execution delay (C) when no
4 concurrent activities are executing and an activity execution latency factor (λ), wherein λ is a
5 function of a number of concurrently executing activities.

1 3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2 wherein ~~step a)~~ further calculating the load
2 index comprises ~~the step of~~ calculating the load index for each engine j as a total average activity

3 execution delay $L(j) = C + \frac{1}{k} \sum_{i=1}^k N_i \lambda_i$, wherein k is a total number of activities completed within

4 a pre-determined time period for engine j , wherein N_i is the number of other concurrently
5 executing processes at the time activity i is executing, wherein λ_i is an execution latency rate
6 for activity i .

1 4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2 wherein ~~step a)~~ further calculating the load
2 index comprises ~~the step of~~ calculating the load index for each engine j as a relative average
3 activity execution delay $L(j) = \frac{1}{k} \sum_{i=1}^k N_i \lambda_i$, wherein k is a total number of activities completed
4 within a pre-determined time period for engine j , wherein N_i is the number of other concurrently
5 executing activities at the time activity i is executing, wherein λ_i is an execution latency rate for
6 activity i .

1 5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein ~~step b)~~ further distributing the
2 workload comprises ~~the step of~~ re-directing incoming process requests to another engine.

1 6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein ~~step b)~~ further distributing the
2 workload comprises ~~the step of~~ re-distributing queued processes to another engine.

1 7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein ~~step b)~~ further distributing the
2 workload comprises ~~the step of~~ prioritizing a source engine for distributing workload from based
3 on a maximum differential workload.

1 8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein ~~step b)~~ further distributing the
2 workload comprises ~~the step of~~ identifying a target engine for distributing workload to based on
3 a maximum differential workload.

1 9. (Original) A method of distributing workload in a workflow management system
2 comprising the steps of:

3 a) calculating a load index for each engine of the workflow management system,
4 wherein each load index reflects a workload of its associated engine;
5 b) operating in a load insensitive workload distribution mode for distributing
6 processes until a maximum differential load index exceeds a pre-determined threshold; and
7 c) operating in a load sensitive workload distribution mode for distributing processes
8 until all processes have completed execution once the maximum differential load index exceeds
9 the pre-determined threshold.

1 10. (Original) The method of claim 9 wherein processes are round-robin distributed in the
2 load insensitive workload distribution mode.

1 11. (Original) The method of claim 9 wherein step a) further comprises the step of
2 calculating the load index for each engine j as a total average activity execution delay
3
$$L(j) = C + \frac{1}{k} \sum_{i=1}^k N_i \lambda_i$$
, wherein k is a total number of activities completed within a
4 pre-determined time period for engine j , wherein N_i is the number of other concurrently
5 executing processes at the time activity i is executing, wherein λ_i is an execution latency rate for
6 activity i , wherein C is a single engine nominal activity execution delay when no concurrent
7 activities are executing.

1 12. (Original) The method of claim 9 wherein step a) further comprises the step of
2 calculating the load index for each engine j as a relative average activity execution delay
3
$$L(j) = \frac{1}{k} \sum_{i=1}^k N_i \lambda_i$$
, wherein k is a total number of activities completed within a pre-determined
4 time period for engine j , wherein N_i is the number of other concurrently executing activities at
5 the time activity i is executing, wherein λ_i is an execution latency rate for activity i .

- 1 13. (Original) The method of claim 9 wherein step c) further comprises the step of
- 2 re-directing incoming process requests to another engine.

- 1 14. (Original) The method of claim 9 wherein step c) further comprises the step of
- 2 re-distributing queued processes to another engine.

- 1 15. (Original) The method of claim 9 wherein step c) further comprises the step of
- 2 prioritizing a source engine for distributing workload from based on a maximum differential
- 3 workload.

- 1 16. (Original) The method of claim 9 wherein step c) further comprises the step of
- 2 identifying a target engine for distributing workload to based on a maximum differential
- 3 workload.

- 1 17. (Original) A method of distributing workload in a workflow management system
- 2 comprising the steps of:
 - 3 a) switching from a load insensitive mode to a load sensitive workload distribution
 - 4 mode for distributing processes when a maximum differential load index exceeds a first pre-
 - 5 determined threshold, T1; and
 - 6 b) switching from the load sensitive mode to the load insensitive workload
 - 7 distribution mode for distributing processes when the maximum differential load index is less
 - 8 than a second pre-determined threshold, T2.

- 1 18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[16]] 17 wherein T1=T2.

- 1 19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[16]] 17 wherein T1>T2.

1 20. (Original) The method of claim 17 wherein step a) further comprises the step of
2 calculating a load index for each engine j as a total average activity execution delay

3
$$L(j) = C + \frac{1}{k} \sum_{i=1}^k N_i \lambda_i$$
, wherein k is a total number of activities completed within a
4 pre-determined time period for engine j , wherein N_i is the number of other concurrently
5 executing processes at the time activity i is executing, wherein λ_i is an execution latency rate for
6 activity i , wherein C is a single engine activity nominal execution delay when no concurrent
7 activities are executing.

1 21. (Original) The method of claim 17 wherein step a) further comprises the step of
2 calculating a load index for each engine j as a relative average activity execution delay

3
$$L(j) = \frac{1}{k} \sum_{i=1}^k N_i \lambda_i$$
, wherein k is a total number of activities completed within a pre-determined
4 time period for engine j , wherein N_i is the number of other concurrently executing activities at
5 the time activity i is executing, wherein λ_i is an execution latency rate for activity i .

1 22. (New) The method of claim 1, further comprising providing a definition of activities in
2 the test process such that for each activity, a resource execution time is much less than an engine
3 execution time, the resource execution time representing an execution time of a resource to
4 perform work represented by the respective activity, and the engine execution time representing
5 an execution time of the respective engine in performing the activity.

1 23. (New) A workflow management system, comprising:
2 plural workflow engines;
3 workload monitors to compute load indices for the workflow engines, wherein each load
4 index reflects a workload of the corresponding workflow engine; and
5 a load balancer to:
6 operate in a load insensitive workload distribution mode for distributing processes
7 among the workflow engines in a first distribution fashion that is insensitive to the load indices
8 until at least one difference between load indices of the workflow engines exceeds a first
9 threshold; and
10 after the at least one difference between load indices exceeds the first threshold,
11 operate in a load sensitive workload distribution mode for distributing processes among the
12 workflow engines in a second distribution fashion that is sensitive to the load indices until at
13 least one of:
14 (1) all processes have completed execution; and
15 (2) the at least one difference between load indices of the workflow
16 engines is less than a second threshold.

1 24. (New) The workflow management system of claim 23, wherein the load index for each
2 engine j is a total average activity execution delay $L(j) = C + \frac{1}{k} \sum_{i=1}^k N_i \lambda_i$, wherein k is a total
3 number of activities completed within a pre-determined time period for engine j , wherein N_i is
4 the number of other concurrently executing processes at the time activity i is executing, wherein
5 λ_i is an execution latency rate for activity i , wherein C is a single engine activity nominal
6 execution delay when no concurrent activities are executing.

1 25. (New) The workflow management system of claim 23, wherein the load index for each
2 engine j is a relative average activity execution delay $L(j) = \frac{1}{k} \sum_{i=1}^k N_i \lambda_i$, wherein k is a total
3 number of activities completed within a pre-determined time period for engine j , wherein N_i is
4 the number of other concurrently executing activities at the time activity i is executing, wherein
5 λ_i is an execution latency rate for activity i .